THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATRUAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) In April, 1993, Government introduced Parallel Marketing Scheme. Under this scheme, a private party can undertaken the import of LPG and kerosene and can sell these products at market determined prices under their own distribution network. So far petrol pumps are concerned, it is not yet open to the private sector.

(b) As per the records maintained in this Ministry, no private party has reported about the setting up of LPG and petrol dealerships under parallel marketing scheme in respect of Meghalaya.

Retail outlets of petroleum products in Karnataka

1630. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of petroleum products in Karnataka;

(b) the places where new petroleum retail outlets are proposed to be opened in Karnataka during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) how many new retail outlets to be opened in Bellary District during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATRUAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As on 1.10.1999 there were 1039 retail outlets in Karnataka.

(b) and (c) In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans 49 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996—98 for Karnataka including 2 for District Bellary.

Cess paid by ONGC to OIDB

1631. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC propose to pay more than 2000 crores as cess during the current financial year to the Oil Industry Development Board;

(b) if so, the total amount of cess paid by ONGC to OIDB during the past three years;

(c) the purpose for which Oil Industry Development Board utilised the said cess amount; and